

**Virginia Commission for the Arts  
December 10, 2003, Minutes  
Center in the Square  
Roanoke**

**Members Present:** Dr. Lucius Ellsworth, Barney Annas, Ron Carrington, Marilyn Gould, Gary Grant, Bonita Lestina, E.A. McMath, Roddy Moore, Alice Starr, Beth Temple, Will Trinkle, and Bessida White

**Members Absent:** Rod Taylor

**Staff Present:** Peggy Baggett, Donna Banks, Foster Billingsley, and Sharon Wilson

**Guests:** Susan Jennings, Arts Council of the Blue Ridge; Beth Wellington

**Introduction**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Commission Chair Lu Ellsworth. He welcomed the Commissioners, staff, and guests. Will Trinkle also welcomed the Commissioners to Roanoke and reviewed the schedule for the day.

Will Trinkle then introduced Susan Jennings, Executive Director of the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge, who gave an overview of arts and culture in the Roanoke area.

Lu Ellsworth announced that Virginia Secretary of Education Belle Wheelan, who had planned to speak at the meeting, had been called to a meeting with the Governor in Richmond.

E. A. McMath made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2003, meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Lu Ellsworth stated that once or twice a year the Commission has a period of public comment at the board meetings. He asked if the guests would like to address the board.

Beth Wellington, a writer, introduced herself and endorsed the restoration of the Writers in Virginia program.

**Report of the Arts in Education Committee**

Roddy Moore, Chair of the Arts in Education Committee, asked Sharon Wilson to give the committee report. Ms. Wilson reported that the Committee had discussed ways to promote the Teacher Incentive Grants more widely, possible future changes in the guidelines, and ways of encouraging traditional artists to become involved in the residency program.

The Committee approved the recommendations of the *Artist Roster* panel with the exception of Scott Perry, who was approved for inclusion on the Roster for one year.

The Committee did not make the final decisions on the Teacher Incentive Grants. The Committee discussed several changes from the panel recommendations on the applications. The Committee had directed the Commission staff to check the total amount recommended for funding, after the changes. If the total is within the budgeted amount, the Commission staff was directed to prepare the award letters without further consultation with the Committee. If the changes exceed the budgeted amount, the Committee will meet again by conference call to make the final decisions on the applications.

### **Special Recognition Awards**

Lu Ellsworth asked Peggy Baggett to report on behalf of the Executive Committee about the Special Recognition Awards for 2004-05. The Executive Committee recommended that the five organizations receiving such funding in 2003-04 be invited to apply again and that a sixth organization, the Blue Ridge Institute of Ferrum College, be invited to apply for the first time.

Marilyn Gould made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously with Roddy Moore abstaining because of conflict of interest.

### **Art Works for Virginia**

Peggy Baggett reported on plans for the Art Works for Virginia conference and Arts Advocacy Day activities. Gary Grant complimented the Commission staff and Virginians for the Arts for putting together an interesting group of speakers and sessions. Lu Ellsworth urged the Commissioners to encourage as much attendance as possible from their communities.

Suggestions were made for future conferences to invite Mayor Joe Riley of Charleston, South Carolina, to speak and to have a session on the creative economy.

### **2004-2006 Guidelines for Funding**

Peggy Baggett reported that no further public comments about the draft guidelines for funding had been received since the October 2, 2003, Commission meeting.

Marilyn Gould made a motion to approve the *2004-2006 Guidelines for Funding*. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### **Jefferson Center Tour**

The meeting adjourned for lunch and a tour of the Jefferson Center and was then reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

### **Report of the Advocacy Committee**

Marilyn Gould reported on the meeting of the Advocacy Committee. She pointed out the new and revised advocacy materials in the meeting books, including the Virginians for the Arts legislative position statement, the report on the impact of the state budget cuts on arts and cultural organizations, and the page with tips on placing guest editorials, op ed articles, and letters to the editor in newspapers.

Ms. Gould urged the Commissioners to take a leadership role in getting speakers for the arts at the upcoming public hearings on the overall state budget.

Lu Ellsworth reported that national arts advocacy efforts had been successful in getting an increase in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and for international cultural exchanges through the State

Department. He thanked Alice Starr for her work with Representative Frank Wolf on the international cultural exchange funding.

### **Follow Up to the March Planning Meeting**

Peggy Baggett reported on the actions in response to the discussion at the March planning meeting. The revised and expanded advocacy materials were created. Virginians for the Arts is printing a brochure on the impact of Virginia artists and arts organizations on education. There have been two meetings of a group representing the entire field of arts and culture to work on a combined advocacy message. Virginians for the Arts will discuss the idea of a statewide cultural trust, once the new director of the organization is in place.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Following the business meeting, the Commissioners toured Center in the Square, saw an excerpt of a current Mill Mountain Theatre production, and attended a reception at the home of Will Trinkle.